

**Mansfield Commission on Aging
Minutes
Monday, September 8, 2003 2:30 PM – Senior Center**

Present: Kevin Grunwald (staff), Patty Hope (staff), Susanna Thomas (chair), Phil Secker, Lib Norris, Carol McMillan, Carol Phillips, Nora Stevens, Ray Moore, Jean Ann Kenny (staff), John Brubacher (President, Mansfield Senior Center Association), Beth Acebo

Regrets: Barbara Ivry

I. Call to Order. The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:36 PM

II. Appointment of Recording Secretary: K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for this meeting.

III. Acceptance of Minutes of the June 9, 2003 meeting: Lib Norris noted that on Section V. D. the minutes should read WRCA; not WRCC. Phil Secker noted the correct spelling of his name. Other than those corrections the minutes were accepted as written.

IV. Correspondence - Chair and Staff

K. Grunwald reported on the receipt of the Community Conversation grant from LWV-CT for a conversation on education. Carol McMillan will be on the planning committee representing the Mansfield LWV and seniors.

V. Optional Reports on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program - J. Kenny

Jean distributed copies of her reports for June, July and August. Wendy Murakami has changed her hours to Monday. The visiting nurse is still coming from the VNA, despite the decision by the Town not to provide funding through the agency funding request process. The VNA will be charging full fees for services, and the Town has agreed to subsidize residents who cannot afford this.

Two presentations that were done by staff from Yale on Fall Prevention were very well received.

There will be upcoming presentations on Alzheimers and Foot Care. The Annual Flu Clinic will be offered on October 23. A presentation on Bladder Health is scheduled for November 12.

Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation - J. Kenny

The center is offering programs on outpatient rehab., fall prevention, and incontinence.

B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – Kevin Grunwald; Senior Center Assoc. – John Brubacher

Copies of reports were distributed for June, July and August. J. Kenny mentioned the success of the retirement party that was held for Marilyn Gerling on her last day. She also worked with Ellie Lamb on the birthday luncheons that were held in July, August and September.

C. Housing

Assisted Living Project – Chair

K. Grunwald mentioned that there are several individuals who have expressed interest in congregate housing/assisted living for seniors. There was some discussion about the history of this initiative in Mansfield, and it was decided that the Department of Social Services will attempt to integrate these efforts.

Juniper Hill, Jensen's Park, Other: B. Acebo reported that she has been attending "council" meetings at Juniper Hill. They will start enlarging the kitchen on October 1. She has raised concerns about the need for a fire alarm system in the cottages, as there are no staff there in the evening. J. Kenny noted that the building is under HUD supervision, and is inspected on a regular basis.

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations

Com. on Physically and Sensorily Impaired - Mary Thatcher

Senior Resources of Eastern CT – Carol McMillan: C. McMillan distributed the copies of the final funding distribution by Senior Resources. She noted that funding for Dial-A-Ride in this region was reduced. Community Companions and Homemakers were funded at the same level as last year.

Town Plan of Conservation and Development – Carol Phillips: C. Phillips reported that the plan has not been finalized. Greg Paddick of the Planning and Zoning department will be making a presentation to the LWV of Mansfield on the plan at the end of September.

Town Community Center – Ray Moore

R. Moore reports that there have continued to be delays in the delivery of the windows to complete the project. Tours were offered this past Saturday during “Know Your Town Fair.” The walking track has been completed, and the pool is being filled.

VI. Old Business

Status of search for Senior Center Director: Patty Hope, new Senior Services Coordinator started working today and introduced herself to the Commission.

Plans for the Fall – membership and topics for study: S. Thomas reported that the Commission is responsible for making recommendations to the Town Council for agency funding requests. Assignments to review applications will be made at the October meeting, and presentations will be made in November and December. Agencies may be asked to come in to make a presentation to the Commission.

VII. New Business

Report of Nominating Committee – Nora Stevens and Lib Norris: N. Stevens reported that C. McMillan and C. Phillips have agreed to stay on. She has also approached several other individuals about their interest in becoming members. There is still a need to fill an open term that will expire in one year. The committee is open to suggestions from other Commission members for new members; please give N. Stevens a call if you have a recommendation.

VI. Adjournment: meeting was adjourned at 3:47
(next meeting set for Tuesday, Oct 14, 2003 at 2:30, Senior Center)